

Public Safety

Budget Message

FY 2004/05

This past year, **Animal Services Division** expanded their volunteer program to include more “animal-human” interaction. We now have volunteers providing obedience and behavior modification training, with others simply spending quality time interacting with the animals.

In March, 2004, the Division held its first annual Pet Adopt-a-Thon in cooperation with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), area rescue groups, and volunteers. This event resulted in Animal Services adopting out 29 animals, the SPCA adopted out 19 animals, and the participating rescue groups adopted out 18 animals.

The 2nd Annual Tag Day was held in May. This event promotes the vaccination of animals and the importance of pet licensing and was well attended by Seminole County residents.

In an effort to achieve a 100% sterilization compliancy rate, the Division began a new program of transporting newly adopted non-sterilized adult animals to veterinarians for sterilization prior to release to the new owners.

Animal Services continues to provide a strong educational program through SGTV, school programs, shelter tours, and the web site.

Through Grant funds, the **Emergency Management Division** will complete the retrofitting of the last three shelters. This will then bring the total to eleven public school shelters having window and door protection. Included in this total are two shelters for people with special needs. We will then have a capacity of 11,500 shelter spaces.

We have completed the Seminole County Continuity of Operations (COOP)/Terrorism Annex and it has been approved by the State Division of Emergency Management. We are awaiting approval of the Local Mitigation Strategy. Grant funds will also be used to assist in updating and revising the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan next year.

Homeland Security Grant funds will be utilized in the next fiscal year for planning and training and Emergency Operations Center upgrades and exercises.

In the **Emergency Communications/E911 Division**, Emergency 911 calls for assistance continue to coincide with countywide population increases. As the population grows, 911 emergency alarm volume increases at a comparable rate.

Calls from citizens who use wireless telephone devices account for approximately 55% of the calls received in the Emergency Communications Center. The use of wireless devices as a communication tool continues to become a staple of our population.

New challenges for the 911 System include adapting to new methods of accessing 911, including Voice Over Internet Protocol and other electronic methods.

The Division completed an audit of addresses countywide and continues to maintain the County Street Centerline File, which is a primary component of a complete mapping system for emergency services.

This past year the **EMS/Fire/Rescue Division** acquired a 45,000 square foot building to convert into an emergency services training center. Partnering with Seminole Community College, a fire training building will be constructed to provide live fire training for firefighting personnel. The Division was the recipient of several grants which will be used to enhance emergency medical services and increase the organization's ability to respond to terrorism incidents. Included is a partnership that has been forged with Orange County and City of Orlando to field an Urban Search and Rescue Team for the Central Florida area. The Division created an emergency response “bike team” to help provide emergency medical service at special events that take place in the County and for response on the Seminole County trails system. An Insurance Services Office fire department evaluation was conducted with the County retaining a very good rating.

In the coming year we will continue our emergency medical transport program, which will generate an estimated \$2.5 million in funds to offset the cost of our operations, construct a new fire station in the Forest City area, place a new emergency command and control unit in service, institute a new grant funded EMS capability called capnography to insure respiratory resuscitation success and continue to provide, along with our 1st Response Agreement partners, high quality EMS, fire and specialized rescue services to the citizens of Seminole County.

